To Hell and Back

'What a Difference a Day Makes'

Bear with me on this. My Hand writing is terrible My Spelling is worse. 'A Hunting Trip Interuped' The things your supposed to hear on a Hunting Trip – I thought I heard a Shot down around the Pond – Checking Station – The Ant Tree – The little Rabit field – The middle Tree Stand. Is that Gun Loaded – What are you cooking – The First Field: 'I think I missed Him': We found Blood + Hair but's that all. I didn't hear a Shot in Queen Ann's County. I thought a real Tragdy was when I had to put a Water Pump on Bud's White Van durring Hunting Season. Or the time the Tents blew down. Or the time Dave Slept in his Tent + The Screech Owl almost scared him to Death. The last thing you want to hear is someone Say 'Call 911! 9-1-1 + mean it. Fortunatley I heard it first, because I said it. It was 6:55 Tuesday Morning the third of December. If it had to happen, I'm glad it happened to me. ~~It~~ Glad doesn't even belong here. It started Mon. Morning, I had walked down Brick School House Road about 60 yards. I walked into the Woods about 50 yards + found a big Pine Tree Laying down. I got into the middle

of it & sat down on my little stool. Dawn was just breaking & I heard it before & felt it. That cold Dec. Rain. That usaly doesn't bother me. I was wearing everything I owned but I couldn't stop shaking. Then I remembered a little 1.00 Store Plastic Poncho in my Stool. It was all Folded up about the Size of a Deck of Cards. I must of had it about 10 years. I finally got it opened up & on me & it felt good with the Rain comeing down on the Hood. But I still couldn't get warm. I didn't ~~realize~~ realize it, or I was to dumb to know I was Sick. Later on Bud told me it didn't rain on 213. Anyway I couldn't stop thinking about the Fire smouldering back at the Campsite. I talked myself into it, & folded up my Poncho into a little Ball & headed for the Camp only about a Block & a half away. I had to stop & rest about three times. A little tired but mostly shortness of breath and Cold. To make a long Story longer, I got to Camp & started piling Wood on the Fire. It didn't take long because the Wind was blowing & I had a Inferno going & I was probaly setting in the middle of it. I feinnaly got warm. It wasn't to long maby about an hour when I see Bud comeing from Clanrichan Shop Road. Well

You know how Bud can tell a Story. He told me he had two Deer down + all gutted out. We got some rope + Ronnie's new Toy a A.T.V. + headed for 213 about ½ way to the Point. We got them hooked up + pulled them along ~~on~~ back. We made it to the Gate + it quit. Just low on Gas, but we didn't know about the emergency reserve tank. An at that Point I stopped Filming. Little did I know-it would be the last I would Take for the Hunting Season! Somehow I made it through the rest of the Day. I didn't feel to bad just Cold + I couldn't get warm. No body noticed I was always half in + half out of the Fire. As of then I didn't care if I ever got a Deer again. Its all kind of Fuzzy to me now. I was talking to Bud last night + he said I seemed alright when we went down Brick School Rd + we built me a new Tree Stand. I didn't know what he was talking about at First. But as he was telling me about it, it was starting to come back to me. I do remember the spikes + building the Steps to the Tree Stand. I dont remember Putting on a Platform or even where we built it. I know it was past my

old one. I'm telling you this because I'm living it for the First time. Its like a Dream - Good Or Bad that fades away. Because they never really happen. Only things that really happen come out the same all the time. Thats why it all comes back to me now. Meanwhile back at the Camp, after the tree Stand. Bud was making Baked Potatoes in the Micro-wave, The Generator was running. I remember I was Grilling two Steaks + Ron was telling me when to turn them over. I dont remember eating nothing or drinking any thing. I must of had Instant Coffee because I always do. Going back to Monday I'm pretty sure Richard came down around the campfire. I have no recolection of that. I know we probaly went into Bud's Trailer to watch Mon. Night Football. I think I made it to ½ Time. I can't remember either team that played that night. I knew I wasn't up to par but you always think you'll be better in the Morning. The last thing Bud said to me, if its this Windy in the morning I'm going to Sleep in. He already had Two Deer, so why not. I remember going To The Pop Up + turning on the Burners, We all

did that. I probaly took my Little Sleeping pill. I only took my Big Coat & Boots off. I had two Blankets & a Heavy Sleeping Bag opened up. I remember getting a little warm after awhile. It was about 10:30 & a Paul Harvey always sez. 'And Now For The Rest Of The Story'. Sometime between 10:45 & 1:30 I must of had a Dozen Night Mares. All the Same. I kept drowning & trying to catch my Breath. Through it all I remember sitting up in Bed in the Dark. I was Breathing in little short gasps. I remember setting on my Bed with my Feet hanging down & hearing the wind Howling & the Trailer rocking & the Canvas flopping. Whats the odds of me remembering little things like that & not remembering Eating a Steak or Building a Tree-stand. I wonder if I used Steak Sauce. I always do. Funny isn't it. Funny now that is. It is now 1:30 In the Morning. The night before, that was Sunday night the hard breathing only lasted about 15 minutes & went away so why should tonight be any different. I must have been thinking right or thinking stupid. Well from 1:30 till 6:55 I sat with the Blankets

wrapped around me. I must have dozed now & then but the hard breathing kept waking me. I kept waking up to see if Dawn was breaking. I didn't hear any body leave or Engines start up. I can't even tell you if anybody hunted Tuesday morning or not. I remember what Bud said about the Weather & having Two Deer. I threw all the Covers off & headed for Bud's Trailer & suddenly I had to go to the Bathroom & I dont mean water. People will always say You'll laugh about that. 'Don't ever believe it'. I crawled to the Back of my Van by the Shed. I did what I had to do & then I crawled to the rear Bumper & finnaly got up. Then I headed for Bud's Trailer only about 10 yards away. Just hopeing against hope he was still there. I tried the Door & it was locked as it should be. I knocked on the Door with the side of my Hand & I couldn't hear any movement in side. I kept banging & finnaly I heard Bud say something. A few seconds latter Bud opened the Door & I was still Kneeling on the steps. When Bud saw me he knew something was terribly wrong for a Hunting Trip. Thats when he heard-

those four words I told you about in the beginning (Call Nine One one) It seems Bud has about 1/2 a Doz. Phones wrapped around him. He must have picked the right one because I heard him talking to Someone. He had pulled me inside & covered me with a Blanket. I still couldn't breath hardly at all. It only seemed about five minutes when I heard the Sirens comeing. I dont know how long they worked on me but the Mask they put over my Nose & Mouth didn' do nothing. They might as well have put it on my Ear. I think I saw Bud & Richard when I was on the Streeher. The only thing I remember about the ride to Chesterton was someone asking me if I was Cold? I said yes & they turned the heat up. Any way we made the Hospital, I say we because it was all ~~Blurry~~ Blurry To me. I dont think any body noticed but I was starting to Breath better all the time. Almost normal I didn't hurt any where. They kept asking me where I hurt the most & I kept telling them I was fine. I figured if I didnt Complain to much I could leave & go Hunting. Afterall they only gave me a little Oxagen & a I.V.

So I figured I was good to go. I think along then Dave & Bud came around the corner. You never know how strong Campfire Smoke is until you're in a nice clean Hospital & Two people from the campfire come in. I didn't even have to look up, I knew they were here. I remember Dave & Lorraine - Bud - Marge & Richard. Ron's Preacher came in & talked to me for awhile, He was real nice. I think it was about Thursday when they wheeled me down to the Basement into this big Room. I saw one single Bed in the Middle & all these Lights & things on a big Table. All kinds of Tools that didn't look familler to me. I didn't see Channel Locks - Vice Grips & Screw-drivers like I know about. I saw Hyperdermic Needles - Knives & Saws. This concerned me because I was the only one on the Table. About this time they gave me a Shot in to this little ~~thing~~ Rubber thing in my arm. They were go-ing to Cut me & put this long Spagetti looking thing in my upper leg & go up around my Heart. By this time after that Shot they gave me I didn't much care what they did. I think I was in La La Land. I dont

remember looking at the TV Screen they were watching. I told them I wanted to watch. But they kept asking me if I was alright. I kept telling them I was O.K. Thats about all I remember about Thursday except Dave & Bud were here everytime I turned around. It was 6:55 that terrible Tuesday when I went to the Bathroom & this was Thursday Night. I couldn't beleive I had to spend another Day or So in the Hospital. Little did I know. They told me I was being taken to Balto Friday. But at the last moment they told me it would'nt be until Saturday. That was devansting new to me. I was still picking at my Food & not wanting anything to eat. The next day I had Dave & Bud come in again, somehow I made it through the Night. It must of been about 10:30 Sat. when they loaded me into the Ambulance & headed for Balto. Bud missed me about three Minutes. He saw the Ambulance pulling away & didn't know I was in it. On the way up they put a Tape in the V.C.R. for me to watch. A Movie with Arnold Swartenegger Sat night now & nothings much happening This makes Four days with out a B.M.

Now everybody knows about my 'Bowel' situation. 'B.M.' doesn't stand for 'Big Mack' On Sunday I saw more Martins - Blacks - Wolfs + Fullers than I could count. Monday wasn't to eventfull, so Boering I could Die. The Days were bad but the nights were terrible. About every hour some one would come in + check my Vitals or stick a needle in me. I believe a Carpenter + a Cleaning Woman did it one time. I knew all about Needles we got 21 of them before going overseas Four trips across the Ocean thats 84 Needles plus 187 in a Hospital in Germany. But thats another story - But its still tough when your trying to get a little Sleep. Finnaly Tuesday rolled around + they said 'To Days The Day' 'I thought for what'. About Two O Clock they Rolled me down to the Basement Where I waited on a Cot. I must have dozed off. Finnaly at 4:10 they took me in the 'Room'. Everybody was standing around with Gowns - Gloves + Mask on like I was dirty or something. They tried for about 1/2 an hour to get this one Special Needle in a spot on my Neck. I guess he was a Doctor

or something & he was trying to show this Nurse or Girl. Finnely I said why don't you just do it yourself. He didn't say nothing just kept sticking. I hope they don't charge for how manny times he jabbed me. It took every thing I had not to move around because I didn't know where the little wires on the Needles went. I always say I love Pain but this was redicules. Finnaly I took Center Stage on the Big Table. 'Showtime' The last thing I remember was some one putting this thing over my Nose & Mouth & saying 'Just Breath' thats all. I guess when they were ~~doing~~ done all those little pleasurable things they do. I guess I went to I.C.U. then. I must have woke up & I could hear people talking. I know I couldn't talk or See. They probaly had my eyes taped & a tube in my Mouth. I remember giving the thumbs up a few times. Bud & the Girls & I don't know ~~how~~ who else were there. The next day Wed. I was back in my Room on the Sixth Floor Thats Eight days now & no 'B.M.' Starting to bother me now. Another thing when I got to the Hospital Sat. I was kind ~~of~~

of Groggy. When they ask me if I knew any thing I was Allergic to. I said I was Groggy I thought they meant what I did not like I said Spinnage + Cottage Cheeze. They laughed + said no problem. They have a Chart from 1 to 10 + you tell them what your Pain Level is. 10 being the worst. I didn't know they already had given me 'Percosets'. I guess they figured the Percosets were doing the job because I said. No Pain Am feeling fine. Some People say it doesn't Bother them at all. But to me it became a highly Hallucinogen Drug. I remember seeing three Guys looking in my Window just watching me + not saying nothing. I had forgotten I was on the Sixth Floor. I watched the big Clock on the Wall about the Size of a Dinner Plate turn upside down + the Six Became a Nine + the Second Hand was going backwards. I kept staring at the Clock + trying to figure what time it was. Those things were real — I watched the Hinges on the big Cabenate come together. + One of the Guys out side the Window was looking at the Guy on his Left. Thats what the Drug does to me. This one medicine they were giving me was keeping me Sick all the time I mean Sick, I didnt want nothing. It was 'Six' times the Amount I should be takeing. The strangest thing of all was when I was Trying to watch T.V. I thought I saw something

Out of the Corner of my Eye. I still couldn't even get out of Bed. I still had two of them terrible tubes in me some place. I was laying there so Bored I could die. About that time I thought I saw that Movement again. I took a Double take + caught who was doing it. It was Sharon with a Real short Hair cut. And she was wearing a little Red Beanie. I'm colored Blind so how did I see a Red Beanie. She wasn't Smiling or nothing, she was peeping around the Curtain. She had her lips pushed together like some kid did something wrong. I finaly talked the Nurse into giving me a little Sleeping Pill. Its now 13 days Between the 'B + the M.' I had a mouth full of Fever Blisters + Ulcers. I couldn't even Swallow Water. I Borrowed a Sip Thing from Sharon Sometime between then + Sunday I managed to live through the Boredom. I still couldn't eat any thing. Nothing had any taste to it, Did you ever hear of any one haveing to Chew up Orange Juice or Jello just to Swallow it. Once down in Chestertown + between four + Five days without a 'B.M' And once up here in this Hospital after about Ten days without a 'B.M', Two different times the 'nurses' or 'Kitchen' Help gave me theare little things called Supositories + ask me if I needed any help. I told them never in there Wildest Dreams. Can you just imagine any thing like that. Any way Sunday Morning came

I was supposed to go Home about 11:30. About this time this big Nurse about Three Hundred pounds About 6 feet tall. She was Black & real nice came into my Room. She said Mr Martin You can't go Home without going to the Bath-room. Theres that 'BM' thing again. She didn't ask me, she told me. She said Mr. Martin I'm going to give you a Good Old Fashioned Down Home-Alabama-Soap-Suds Enema. By this time she could have said any thing. Theres no such thing as Dignity left any more. Without getting carried away with the procedure 'It Worked'. Now were going to put an end to this 'Big Mack' 'Blue Moon' 'B.M.' & Finnaly 'Big Mama' stuff. I could have kissed her, if she would of had me, I'm home now & Dorothy came over to Baby Sit me while Marge & Sharon went to get me Prescriptions. Like I said about a Hundred Years Ago. 'A Hunting Trip Interupted'. Still not eating any thing remember I told you about the strong Medicine, I mean the 'Wrong Medicine'. I was Sick for about three an a half Weeks. Marge paid 700.00 for Prescriptions. Monday a Physical Therapist came, I didn't need Him He was a 'Male Nurse'. I guess he was O.K. Jenny came for awhile. Aaron Came over & brought me some Hunting Tapes. Allen came over & brought me some Army Tapes. Scott Hall called me from Florida. Sharon's work sent me a Big Basket of Fruit. Ed brought

me a Money Collection from the Guys at work And my Boss gave me a Xmas Bonus. Jack brought me a Bag of Oranges. Frank gave me a Pair of ~~Holt~~ Wool Gloves + Sean + Buddy set me up with a Mattress. Lynsay gave me a Pound of Dunkin Donuts Coffee. Christmas Day Dorothy - Janice + Rhonda + latter on Jennifer came. Jim Brewster got my Lotto Tickets for me. Russell was here for about + hour. Bud + Dave took care ob my Trailer. Bud handled my Van. Little Joey down the Street gave me a Get Well Card. Lorraine took me to Fort Howard Ellen came over + Brought me a George Foremas Grill + Two Elec Razors. Through it all Marge has been a Rock. I couldn't have did it without Her. I was to ~~Weak~~ Weak. Just imagine close to a Month without a Meal. I tried to force some Jello + I had to chew it. I couldn't make it up the steps wilhout her folling me + covering me up. I know I have been rambling the last page, but I didnt want to forgit all the help I got. You've heard The Good The Bad + the Ugly? The good was Marge - The Bad was Boredom + the Ugly goes right to the Bone. Rib Bones that is. Thursday started off Normal enough. Lousy Orange Juice Lousy Coffee + Toast. I know it was me because I was still sick. Marge noticed the Front of my Shirt was Wet + I was

7 starting to have trouble Breathing. Lorraine & Sharon were out Buying me a Recliner. My Breathing was getting harder all the time. Marge called ~~called~~ the Girls on the Phone & they came here. They made a lot of calls & everybody said call-Nine One One- You know that was the last thing I wanted to hear. After the call we heard the Sirens about Five Minutes later. They got here & hooked me up & took me to Bay View. At the Hospital - Sharon Lorraine - Marge & Me on a Gurney. We got here about Four O Clock & I was taken from here to University Hospital. That was Eleven Hours later by Ambulance. But in those Eleven Hours I was given Four Needles & one was to make you pass Water Well it worked. I probaly sent those Nosey Three Girls out about ten times while I went. They probaly drew out about Four Gallons of Blood. I had Two ('X Rays') & a ('M.R.i') Your whole Body goes through this thing about the size of a Hot Water Heater. I've got a Bad Back & the MRi almost Killed me. Im glad nobody told me what the next weeks would be like. If I knew I would probaly be laying in the Mud by Richards Hours That happened the Saturday on opening day about a ('Thousand Years ago'). But thats another Story. I would probaly say forget it. I dont know any things better than diesing in the Mud. Mean while

back at Bay View. They had a little surprise for me about 10:30 at night. They leaned me over this Table & stuck this Needle about as big as a Pencil in my Back & started drawing out Fluid. This took about 3/4 of an Hour. I couldn't more because the ~~Me~~ Nurse said "We" dont want to Break the Needle do we. I said I don't know about you but I didn't want to. Before I forget it they brought me this big Tray of Food. I couldn't eat any thing I was still Sick from the Wrong Medicine. Marge & Lorraine - Sweet Lorraine & I didnt want any. So Sharon cleaned it up like she hadn't eaten all Day. I went for my Fourth Ambulance ride back to U. of Md. I forgot to tell you when I was talking about my 'B.M.' The big Nice Nurse said. "We" are going to have a 'B.M.' - Scarey Aren't It -. They finnaly let me drive today so Me & Marge took a Ride out Rt. 40 to look at an Elec. Jack for the Front of my Trailer. I cant do all that cranken for awhile. Mean while back on the Fourth Floor at U of Md. Its Four o'clock in the Morning. I'm all hooked up & Breathing Good. So I figured its time to Sleep. I've been up for about 22 hrs. now. Then Some one said My name is Nurse Yolanda - Like I cared She said we have to check your Vitals & take some Blood. I haven't eaten in about three weeks so how much Blood could I have

5 o clock now + still no Sleep. I didn't Know the Shift was changing. Nurse Lee Chow came in + said I your Nurse now 'Mr Marteen'. I going to check your Vitals now + take some Blood. I finnaly convinced her that Nurse Yolanda had just did that. My Arm was still Bleeding + Bruised. She went away but I dont think she Bought it. Six o clock now + all Hell breaks loose. The Hospital is going to Work. People in + out I had to balance myself on the Floor with all these Hoses wrapped around me. They changed every thing in the Room except me + the Mattress. About Seven o clock they brought me some stuff that looked like Cottage Cheeze + Spinage. But it was a Poached Egg + Jelly Toast. A cup of luke warm water + some Coffee Powder. I forgot a little thing of Orange Juice. I got about 1/2 of the Coffee + the Orange down. While I was trying to get the Warm Coffee down a Male Nurse came in + said, do we want to go Potty. I told him I didn't Know about him but I was O.K. Every Story has a Good part + I was waiting for the Shoe to drop. I looked out the Door + there was about Six Doctors out there + they kept looking at me. I heard them talking about this Seventy Seven year old Man with this Drainage Problem. I thought they were talking about my Potty problem. They all went away + Two

of them came back & stick this Fat needle & a Syphon Hose in my right side Kinda High up. They were looking real serious & I didn't have any thing to smile about. After about Five Minutes they started to smile ~~ing~~ & High Fiveing. I said does it look O.K. I couldn't see through the Tears in my eyes. He said we struck a Gusher & they went away happy & left me with the Hose & the Pump. Nobody seemed to Ex cited except the Two Doctors. It was sorta routine, I mean the Fluid buildup & after I got Home for a while the first time. I guess if they had kept me a few days longer they would have caught it sooner. I had the ~~Hose~~ & ~~for~~ pumps from Fri. until Sun. 'To Hell & Back,' 'A Hunting Trip & nterupted'

Jim Sr.

P.S. I've been Home About nineteen days thats when I started writing this

Jim Sr